

SINU successfully hosts first International Education Conference

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) for the first time hosted a two-days International Education Conference with the theme, “Rethinking Solomon Islands Education for a Sustainable Future.”

SINU in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development (MEHRD) with the support of DFAT Australia hosted the event from 19-20 June 2024.

This event marks a historic first for SINU and MEHRD, as they host an international education conference that has attracted speakers and participants both nationally and internationally.

The conference aims to analyze the current education system, explore global best practices, highlight education’s role in sustainable development, propose strategies for equity and access, foster collaborations among stakeholders, and present studies on sustainable education.

The Minister for Education Tozen Leokana officially opened the conference urging participants to fully engage in the historical and timely conference moving forward.

Minister Leokana thanked SINU and MEHRD for their collaborative efforts, which resulted in the successful staging of the event, attracting over 400 participants. He also expressed gratitude to DFAT Australia and New Zealand for supporting this significant educational initiative, noting the Government for National Unity and Transformation (GNUT) always backs such efforts.

SINU Vice Chancellor (VC) Professor Transform Aqorau delivered the keynote address, emphasizing the critical need to rethink and reshape the education system. He stated, “Today, we stand at a pivotal crossroads in the history of the Solomon Islands, where the need to rethink and reshape our education system has never been more critical.”

“Our current educational framework, though built on solid foundations, requires a transformative vision to meet the demands of an ever-evolving world.”

“We must reimagine an education system that not only imparts knowledge but also cultivates critical thinking, creativity, and resilience in our students.”

“This vision demands that we incorporate modern pedagogical approaches, integrate indigenous knowledge, and embrace innovative technologies to create a holistic and inclusive learning environment that prepares our young people for the complexities of the future.”

“The urgency of this transformation cannot be overstated. Our nation faces unprecedented challenges that threaten our way of life and the well-being of future generations.”

“Climate change poses a profound and existential threat to our islands, with rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and environmental degradation impacting our communities.”

“Simultaneously, we are grappling with burgeoning health crises, from the increasing prevalence of non-communicable diseases to the mental health issues exacerbated by socio-economic pressures.”

“Furthermore, our economy is struggling to grow and diversify, leaving a significant youth population unemployed and under-employed due to a lack of relevant skills.”

“These interlinked challenges necessitate an education system that is not only adaptive and resilient but also proactive in equipping our youth with the skills and knowledge to navigate and overcome these obstacles.”

“In this address, I will emphasise the urgency of addressing these intertwined issues through education.”



Tandai House of Chief rep garlanded SINU VC Prof.Transform Aqorau with a Guadalcanal traditional shell money during the International Education Conference opening ceremony .

Inside this issue:

Vanuatu PM visits SINU.

3

SINU co-host idea of peace seminar

4

Staff Profile

5

.....continued from page 1

“We must develop curricula that instil environmental stewardship and climate resilience, promote health and wellness, and foster economic empowerment.”

“By doing so, we can create a generation of Solomon Islanders who are not only aware of the challenges they face but are also equipped with the tools and mindset to innovate, lead, and thrive in the face of adversity.”

“Our collective efforts today will lay the groundwork for a sustainable and prosperous future, ensuring that the Solomon Islands remain a vibrant and resilient nation amidst global uncertainties.”

It is with this vision in mind that we come together under the theme of this



Group photo guests, participants and facilitators.

conference, "Empowering a Sustainable Future: Rethinking Education in the Solomon Islands Amidst Climate Change, Health Crises, and Economic Challenges."

“This theme encapsulates our mission to forge an educational paradigm that empowers our youth, addresses the critical issues of our time, and paves the way for a sustainable and resilient future for all Solomon Islanders.”

In his keynote address, the SINU VC also highlighted Current Educational Landscape in Solomon Islands which include; Key Provisions and Their Implications, Implications for the Educational Landscape, Strengths and Achievements, and Challenges and Gaps.

Moreover, the SINU VC also talked about the future Solomon Islands face in terms of Climate Change, Health Crises, Economic Diversification and Employment, and Implications for the Educational Landscape.

Furthermore, the SINU VC also highlighted the need for Rethinking Educa-

tion for Sustainability which include Innovative Curriculum and Pedagogy, Indigenous Knowledge and Cultural Preservation, Teacher Capacity and Professional Development and Technology and Digital Tools.

In addition to that, the SINU VC also emphasized on Inclusive and Equitable Education which include: Access for All, Community and Stakeholder Collaboration.

He called on the government and policymakers, churches and



From left to right: SINU VC Prof. Transform Aqorau, Education Minister Tozen Leokana and MERHD PS Dr. Franco Rodie.

NGOs, donors, and international partners to support these efforts. The VC also thanked those who put their efforts together resulting in the successful hosting of the event.

“A special note of gratitude is due to Dr. Patricia Rodie, Dean of the Faculty of Education and Humanities, along with her hard-working organizing committee.”

“Your meticulous planning, tireless efforts, and unyielding commitment to excellence have ensured the success of this conference.”

“You have provided a platform for meaningful dialogue and actionable insights, setting the stage for transformative changes in our education system.”

“Lastly, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to all the speak-



FEH Dean Dr. Patricia Rodie giving the welcome remarks.

ers, both local and international. Your expertise, perspectives, and insights will enrich our discussions and provide invaluable contributions to our collective understanding of the challenges and opportunities in education.”

“Your willingness to share your knowledge and experiences is invaluable, and we are deeply grateful for your participation.”

The event was graced by the Tandai House of Chief who did a traditional welcome ceremony to mark the event.



Participants and presenters from overseas who are also part of the international conference.

Solomon Islands National University Hosts Vanuatu Prime Minister

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) had the honour of hosting the Prime Minister of Vanuatu, Hon. Charlot Salwai, and his delegation on Friday 21 June at the Kukum Campus. This visit marks a pivotal moment in strengthening the bilateral ties and fostering educational collaboration between Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands.

The Prime Minister's visit is part of his two-day high-level trip to Honiara, culminating in the signing of the Tirvau Border Agreement between the governments of Solomon Islands and the Republic of Vanuatu. Accompanying the Prime Minister were sen-



Prime Minister of Vanuatu, Hon. Charlot Salwai,

ior officials from the Vanuatu Foreign Affairs Department.

The programme commenced at 2:00 PM with a warm reception by the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Transform Aqorau, and senior management staff, followed by a garlanding ceremony. The Prime Minister and his delegation were then guided to the Kukum Lecture Theatre Board Room for an official courtesy meeting with SINU's executive management. During this meeting, a token of



Vanuatu nursing students waiting to welcome their PM and his delegation to SINU

appreciation was presented to Prime Minister Salwai, highlighting the spirit of camaraderie and mutual respect between the two nations.

At 2:20 PM, an interactive session with the Vanuatu SINU Student's Association provided an engaging platform for dialogue and exchange of ideas. This session underscored the importance of student engagement and the role of education in fostering regional cooperation.



Vanuatu PM and delegation posed for a group photo with SINU team during Vanuatu's delegation visit to SINU.

A guided tour of the campus followed showcasing the university's main facilities and the advancements made in providing quality education. The visit concluded at 3:00 PM, with a formal farewell by the Vice-Chancellor and senior management staff.

Reflecting on the importance of this visit, Dr. Transform Aqorau, Vice-Chancellor of SINU, stated, "The collaboration between Vanuatu and Solomon Islands, particularly in the field of education, is a testament to the strength of our Melanesian brotherhood. Our nursing programme, for instance, is a vital



Vanuatu PM and delegation meet with Vanuatu students at SINU.

area where we can share knowledge and expertise to improve healthcare outcomes in our respective countries. It is through such partnerships that we can build a brighter future for our students and our nations."



SINU nursing staff escorted the Vanuatu PM and his delegation to tour the nursing school

SINU and USIP successfully co-host Idea for Peace seminar



Peace seminar panellists

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) was pleased to co-host with United States Institute of Peace a tok stori "Ideas for Peace" with ideas presented by SINU academics, and independent researchers and journalists.

A lively discussion followed with questions and comments from SINU staff, women and youth leaders, and staff of SIG and foreign embassies.

The event aims to explore innovative approaches to conflict resolution and societal development.

According to the SINU Vice Chancellor Professor Transform Aqorau the seminar's objective is to foster dialogue and understanding within our community.

The event was hosted at SINU Lokol Fusion at Kukum Campus on Tuesday 18 June 2024.



In-depth Solomon journalist Charlie Piringi doing his presentation.



Ruth Maetala doing a presentation.



SINU VC Prof. Transform Aqorau doing a presentation.



One of the participants raising a question during the seminar.

Staff Profile

Name: Elizabeth Fatai

Province: Malaita

Age: 42

Work station: Kukum Campus Fixed Assets Management Section

Department: Finance

Job title: Fixed Assets Management Officer

Qualification: Bachelor Accounting (SINU)

How long have you been working here? 3 Years

Tell us about your job:

I am the team leader at the Fixed Assets Management Office. I oversee the proper maintenance of the fixed assets register by recording information related to fixed assets. I ensure the accurate tracking of construction projects and donated assets in the fixed assets register. Additionally, I coordinate the asset team regarding their roles and responsibilities.

What do you like about SINU and your job? I believe that working at SINU will give me access to opportunities and experiences that will help me grow my career in Accounting. I enjoy doing my job. I feel challenged by it.



About Us:



Solomon Islands National University
P.O. Box R113
Honiara
Solomon Islands

www.sinu.edu.sb
Www.facebook.com/SINU.edu

For Newsletter inquiries, contact our Marketing & Promotions Office on:

Phone: 30111 Ext 252 or 42631
E-mail: pro@sinu.edu.sb

All Rights Reserved ®

Solomon Islands National University (SINU) is the Prime and ONLY National University of Solomon Islands.

Founded in 2013, SINU is striving to be one of the Best Education and Research Institute in the Region.

Our VISION: "A quality National University, raising Standards of education and applied research in the

Pacific Region."

Our Mission: "Championing the pursuit of knowledge, skills, academic inquiry and applied research to transform lives through higher education and training, inclusive of diverse communities, while providing relevant solutions for the Solomon Islands.